

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY	USSR (Latvian SSR)	REPORT	
SUBJECT	Morale and Resistance in Latvia	DATE DISTR.	28 April 1954
		NO. OF PAGES	2
DATE OF INFO.		REQUIREMENT NO.	RD
PLACE ACQUIRED		REFERENCES	25X1

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Morale in Latvia

1. In general the Latvian people are suffering and waiting with varying degrees of patience for the liberation which they expect as a result of American military action. They commonly expect such action to begin [redacted] 25X1
 [redacted] The Latvian people have little hope of help [redacted] but rest [redacted] 25X1
 all their homes on the Americans. They also expect great things from the Latvian emigrés [redacted] 25X1
2. When among trusted friends, people still use the old Latvian words for Mr., Mrs., or Miss; they address each other as Tovarishch or Grazhdanin only when in public. 25X1

Resistance Activity

3. Most former members of the Aizsargi, the former Latvian anti-Soviet home guard, have been removed from their communities by deportation or other means. However, a medical specialist and former member of the Aizsargi, who had been deported to Siberia in 1941, has now been allowed to return to Latvia and practice, although not in Riga (N 56-57, E 24-05), where he formerly lived, but in a small provincial town.
4. Partisans were numerous, active, and aggressive in Latvia up to 1948, particularly in the forests around Raka (N 57-15, E 26-10), where in 1946 they killed A. Kupcitis, the chairman of the local executive committee. At Ligatne (N 57-11, E 25-01) the wife of an official of the Ligatne paper mill was beaten by partisans after making a Communist speech at a funeral. On 18 November 1948, the former Latvian National Day, white and red flowers (the former Latvian national colors) had been placed on the well-known Monument to the Student Battalion at Cēsis (N 57-21, E 25-36).

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5. In 1950, a partisan who had been wounded and captured lay in a hospital in Cēsis under a constant security guard who waited for him to recover sufficiently to be interrogated. In a prison in Cēsis in 1950, the screams of a captured partisan who was being tortured could be heard through several walls. On several occasions during 1951 and 1952, anti-Communist pamphlets were found on the streets in Rauna (N 57-21, E 25-36). There were some betrayals of the partisans in the Cēsis area, and partisan activity ceased there by the end of 1952; according to local rumors, the partisans then moved to the larger forests in Lithuania and Poland, where they were rumored to be well armed and to be engaged in attacking Soviet soldiers and blowing up bridges and trains.

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